

REMARKS

Claims 10, 20, and 30 have been amended to delete the recitation of "nucleotide sequence 55-435 of." Support for this amendment appears, e.g., in claims 10, 20, and 30 as originally filed.

None of these amendments adds any new matter. Their entry is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, and 29-35 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's statement that claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 31-35 are allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 10, 20, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the recitation of "nucleotide sequence 55-435 of" with regard to SEQ ID NO:1 does not find support in the specification as filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment renders the Examiner's rejection moot. Without acquiescing to the Examiner's contentions, and solely to expedite prosecution, applicants have amended claims 10, 20, and 30 to delete the recitation of "nucleotide sequence of 55-435 of."

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for discussing the initialed Form PTO SB-08 attached to the final Office Action with their undersigned attorney on April 13, 2006. Applicants' attorney noted that while references C1-C33 were initialed by the Examiner, references A1-A2 had not been initialed. The Examiner stated that references A1-A2 had been considered by the Examiner, but that the Examiner's initials on Form PTO SB-08 had been inadvertently omitted. The Examiner suggested that applicants request an updated initialed Form PTO SB-08 with the present Reply.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner make references A1-A2 of record by initialing Form PTO SB-08, and forwarding a copy with the next communication.

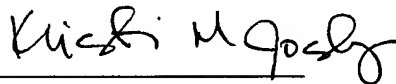
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the present amendment, consider the foregoing remarks, and allow the pending claims to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would help expedite the successful prosecution of the claims, applicants' undersigned attorney would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this reply. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any payments that may be due to Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilmer Cutler Pickering
Hale and Dorr LLP



Kristin M. Joslyn
Reg. No. 47,692
Attorney for Applicants

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Wilmer Cutler Pickering
Hale and Dorr LLP
399 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Tel: (212) 230-8800
Fax: (212) 230-8888